

Choosing Topics When Writing About Your Cultural Heritage

When asked to write a paper on your cultural heritage, you will need to choose certain topics to focus on unless you plan to write an extremely long paper. You may have more than one cultural heritage to choose from, and any one culture has many aspects.



First, brainstorm major aspects of your cultural heritage. This would include such things as recent history, ancient history, literature, food, religion, holidays, money, art, music, dance, etc. See how many you can come up with.

Next, take those that are the most interesting to you, maybe four or five, and brainstorm subtopics of these. For example, food is a large topic, but you could focus on daily staples or foods eaten for special occasions or desserts. Maybe there is one period or even one event in your culture's ancient history that is particularly important or interesting. Does your culture's art focus more on painting or sculpture or some other form? **You want to end up with topics that are broad enough to find some information on,** but not so broad that you don't know what to put in your paper and what to leave out.

Remember that brainstorming is about getting ideas down on paper, even if they're ideas you would never write about. The more ideas you write down, the more will follow. Once you have them down, look them over and see which will be the most interesting to you.

Your turn! Brainstorm about your cultural heritage, then circle the topics you think you'd most enjoy writing about.

Brainstorming Major Aspects

Brainstorming Subtopics

Brainstorming Final Topics

Topic 1

Topic 2

Topic 3

Topic 4
